

National Interagency Joint Apprenticeship Meeting

Notes from October 6-7, 2004

Introductions and attendance:

Greg Greenhoe, FS Mgt. Rep.

Shirley Sutliff, FS National Apprenticeship Program Coordinator
(filling in as FS Mgt. Rep)

Rick Roach, BLM National Apprenticeship Program Coordinator and BLM Mgt Rep.

Eric Plimmer, FS Labor Rep.

David Crow, FS Labor Rep.

Barbara Drake, FS Labor Rep.

Lonnie Williams, FS Labor Rep. and AJAC Member

Mike Williams, BLM Labor Rep.

Scott Whitmire, Asst. Academy Coordinator

Paul Cano, SD County Tribal Fire Depts Rep

Dave Koch, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Program Update – Shirley Sutliff & Scott Whitmire:

Planning on two Advanced Academies and six Basic Academies in 2005. Will need to start a bit earlier and run into May. Will hold to around 100 students per basic academy. Have a total request for 612 slots for these 6 academies. R-5 is looking at doing their hiring for 2006 academies in the spring rather than the fall. Will allow for new apprentices to get one season under their belt before going to the academy. Everything else is ready to go. Will be feeding all three meals each day in the McCellan Training Facility cafeteria.

Review of Operations Plan:

Group reviewed changes recommended by Shirley Sutliff to the Apprenticeship Operating Plan. Worked through the document and approved final changes for 2006.

Protocols for Handling Family Emergencies:

Discussed by the committee and added language to the Operations Plan that outlines the procedures to request makeup of incomplete training at the home unit rather than coming back to the academy. It was agreed that any training missed or incomplete at the academy the student will return to the academy to makeup that training. The student can appeal this decision to the NIJAC through the AJAC. The NIJAC will develop a checklist that will be used by the NIJAC members when reviewing future appeals for academy makeup of training at the home unit.

Possible BIA Involvement in the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program:

Paul Cano and Dave Koch presented their desire to join in the program perhaps with some non-apprentice trainees in 2005. Discussed and answered questions for them. Will need to look at how we add them to the master agreement with DOL so that they can go the full apprenticeship route. Very positive discussion about future BIA participation. Shirley will contact DOL about adding the BIA.

Billing Agreement and Administrative Surcharge:

Shirley discussed that we do not have a choice when it comes to the 19.2% surcharge. This is national policy and all agencies should be billing each other with the surcharge. Discussed possibly adding the surcharge language in the master billing agreement when we add the BIA to the agreement.

National Recruitment Bulletin and Hiring Process:

Talked about and confirmed the desire of NIJAC to get to one National, Interagency Recruitment Bulletin and hiring process. This may be more feasible when the Forest Service completes it's centralization of the HR organization. Suggested adding Jane Haker as an advisor to the NIJAC due to her experience and leadership in the SCEP program. Greg will get with Jane.

Review and Update of the Communication Plan:

The committee updated the communication plan. Most all of the major elements have been completed. We now have the tools so the plan was modified to start using them and getting out to FMO meetings and other conferences.

Proposal to add language concern work hours for Aviation:

The Los Padres NF has forwarded a proposal to allow fixed wing experience to be given credit within the 240 hours of helicopter time. In other words, you could complete your aviation work experience on either a helicopter or at a fixed wing base. The group did not agree to mix fixed wing time into the helicopter time. It did feel that fixed wing base experience was a good thing so the committee did approve that up to 180 hours of fixed wing base experience could be counted, but would be optional, towards the 1950 suppression hour requirement. 240 hours of helicopter time would still be required.

Committee Membership:

Jim Barnett has replaced Billy Terry as a FS Management Rep.
Spike Thompson will replace Greg Greenhoe as a FS Management Rep. On January 3, 2005.

David Crow has replaced Todd Payne as a FS Labor Rep.

Rick Roach nominated and elected as the new Chairperson for the Nat'l Interagency Joint Apprenticeship Program effective January 1, 2005.

Eric Plimmer will remain as Secretary for the remainder of his term (2005)